BEFORE THE BOARD OF REGISTERED NURSING DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Statement of Issues Against:

KIMI RENEE BUONO 5025 Gavilan Way, Unit 54 Oceanside, CA 92057

Application for Licensure by Exam

Respondent

RN 742617

Case No. 2009-30

DECISION AND ORDER

The attached Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order is hereby adopted by the Board of Registered Nursing, Department of Consumer Affairs, as its Decision in the above entitled matter.

This Decision shall become effective on **JANUARY 17, 2008**.

IT IS SO ORDERED <u>DECEMBER 17, 2008.</u>

President

Board of Registered Nursing Department of Consumer Affairs

Trancine Wlate

State of California

1	EDMUND G. BROWN JR., Attorney General		
2	of the State of California JAMES M. LEDAKIS, State Bar No. 132645		
3	Supervising Deputy Attorney General		
4	Senior Legal Analyst		
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5	P.O. Box 85266		
6	San Diego, CA 92186-5266 Telephone: (619) 645-2610		
7	Facsimile: (619) 645-2061		
8	Attorneys for Complainant		
9	DEFORE THE		
10	BOARD OF REGISTERED NURSING DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS		
11	STATE OF CALIFORNIA		
12	In the Matter of the Statement of Issues Against:	Case No. 2009-30	
13	KIMI RENEE BUONO		
14	5025 Gavilan Way, Unit 54	STIPULATED SETTLEMENT AND DISCIPLINARY ORDER	
	Oceanside, CA 92057		
15	Application No. 813507		
16	Respondent.		
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18	IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED AND AGREED by and between the parties to the		
19	above-entitled proceedings that the following matters are true:		
20	PARTIES		
21	1. Ruth Ann Terry, M.P.H., R.N. (Complainant) is the Executive Officer of		
22	the Board of Registered Nursing. She brought this action solely in her official capacity and is		
23	represented in this matter by Edmund G. Brown Jr., Attorney General of the State of California,		
24	by James M. Ledakis, Supervising Deputy Attorney General, and by Blanca I. Lopez, Senior		
25	Legal Analyst.		
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27	2. Kimi Renee Buono (Respondent) is representing herself in this proceeding		
28	and has chosen not to exercise her right to be represented by counsel.		
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9. Respondent agrees that her application for a Registered Nurse License is subject to denial and she agrees to be bound by the Board's imposition of discipline as set forth in the Disciplinary Order below.

CONTINGENCY

- Nursing. Respondent understands and agrees that counsel for Complainant and the staff of the Board of Registered Nursing may communicate directly with the Board regarding this stipulation and settlement, without notice to or participation by Respondent. By signing the stipulation, Respondent understands and agrees that she may not withdraw her agreement or seek to rescind the stipulation prior to the time the Board considers and acts upon it. If the Board fails to adopt this stipulation as its Decision and Order, the Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order shall be of no force or effect, except for this paragraph, it shall be inadmissible in any legal action between the parties, and the Board shall not be disqualified from further action by having considered this matter.
- 11. The parties understand and agree that facsimile copies of this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order, including facsimile signatures thereto, shall have the same force and effect as the originals.
- 12. In consideration of the foregoing admissions and stipulations, the parties agree that the Board may, without further notice or formal proceeding, issue and enter the following Disciplinary Order:

DISCIPLINARY ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the application of Respondent Kimi Renee Buono for licensure is hereby granted. Upon successful completion of the licensure examination and all other licensing requirements, a license shall be issued to Respondent. Said license shall immediately be revoked, the order of revocation stayed, and Respondent placed on probation for a period of three (3) years on the following conditions:

1. **Obey All Laws.** Respondent shall obey all federal, state and local laws. A full and detailed account of any and all violations of law shall be reported by Respondent to the Board in writing within seventy-two (72) hours of occurrence. To permit monitoring of compliance with this condition, Respondent shall submit completed fingerprint forms and fingerprint fees within 45 days of the effective date of the decision, unless previously submitted as part of the licensure application process.

Criminal Court Orders: If Respondent is under criminal court orders, including probation or parole, and the order is violated, this shall be deemed a violation of these probation conditions, and may result in the filing of an accusation and/or petition to revoke probation.

2. Comply with the Board's Probation Program. Respondent shall fully comply with the conditions of the Probation Program established by the Board and cooperate with representatives of the Board in its monitoring and investigation of the Respondent's compliance with the Board's Probation Program. Respondent shall inform the Board in writing within no more than 15 days of any address change and shall at all times maintain an active, current license status with the Board, including during any period of suspension.

Upon successful completion of probation, Respondent's license shall be fully restored.

- 3. **Report in Person.** Respondent, during the period of probation, shall appear in person at interviews/meetings as directed by the Board or its designated representatives.
- 4. Residency, Practice, or Licensure Outside of State. Periods of residency or practice as a registered nurse outside of California shall not apply toward a reduction of this probation time period. Respondent's probation is tolled, if and when she resides outside of California. Respondent must provide written notice to the Board within 15 days of any change of residency or practice outside the state, and within 30 days prior to re-establishing residency or returning to practice in this state.

Respondent shall provide a list of all states and territories where she has ever been licensed as a registered nurse, vocational nurse, or practical nurse. Respondent shall further

provide information regarding the status of each license and any changes in such license status during the term of probation. Respondent shall inform the Board if she applies for or obtains a new nursing license during the term of probation.

5. Submit Written Reports. Respondent, during the period of probation, shall submit or cause to be submitted such written reports/declarations and verification of actions under penalty of perjury, as required by the Board. These reports/declarations shall contain statements relative to Respondent's compliance with all the conditions of the Board's Probation Program. Respondent shall immediately execute all release of information forms as may be required by the Board or its representatives.

Respondent shall provide a copy of this Decision to the nursing regulatory agency in every state and territory in which she has a registered nurse license.

6. Function as a Registered Nurse. Respondent, during the period of probation, shall engage in the practice of registered nursing in California for a minimum of 24 hours per week for 6 consecutive months or as determined by the Board.

For purposes of compliance with the section, "engage in the practice of registered nursing" may include, when approved by the Board, volunteer work as a registered nurse, or work in any non-direct patient care position that requires licensure as a registered nurse.

The Board may require that advanced practice nurses engage in advanced practice nursing for a minimum of 24 hours per week for 6 consecutive months or as determined by the Board.

If Respondent has not complied with this condition during the probationary term, and Respondent has presented sufficient documentation of her good faith efforts to comply with this condition, and if no other conditions have been violated, the Board, in its discretion, may grant an extension of Respondent's probation period up to one year without further hearing in order to comply with this condition. During the one year extension, all original conditions of probation shall apply.

7. Employment Approval and Reporting Requirements. Respondent shall obtain prior approval from the Board before commencing or continuing any employment,

paid or voluntary, as a registered nurse. Respondent shall cause to be submitted to the Board all performance evaluations and other employment related reports as a registered nurse upon request of the Board.

Respondent shall provide a copy of this Decision to her employer and immediate supervisors prior to commencement of any nursing or other health care related employment.

In addition to the above, Respondent shall notify the Board in writing within seventy-two (72) hours after she obtains any nursing or other health care related employment. Respondent shall notify the Board in writing within seventy-two (72) hours after she is terminated or separated, regardless of cause, from any nursing, or other health care related employment with a full explanation of the circumstances surrounding the termination or separation.

8. **Supervision.** Respondent shall obtain prior approval from the Board regarding Respondent's level of supervision and/or collaboration before commencing or continuing any employment as a registered nurse, or education and training that includes patient care.

Respondent shall practice only under the direct supervision of a registered nurse in good standing (no current discipline) with the Board of Registered Nursing, unless alternative methods of supervision and/or collaboration (e.g., with an advanced practice nurse or physician) are approved.

Respondent's level of supervision and/or collaboration may include, but is not limited to the following:

- (a) Maximum The individual providing supervision and/or collaboration is present in the patient care area or in any other work setting at all times.
- (b) Moderate The individual providing supervision and/or collaboration is in the patient care unit or in any other work setting at least half the hours Respondent works.
- (c) Minimum The individual providing supervision and/or collaboration has person-to-person communication with Respondent at least twice during each shift worked.

(d) Home Health Care - If Respondent is approved to work in the home health care setting, the individual providing supervision and/or collaboration shall have person-to-person communication with Respondent as required by the Board each work day. Respondent shall maintain telephone or other telecommunication contact with the individual providing supervision and/or collaboration as required by the Board during each work day. The individual providing supervision and/or collaboration shall conduct, as required by the Board, periodic, on-site visits to patients' homes visited by Respondent with or without Respondent present.

9. **Employment Limitations.** Respondent shall not work for a nurse's registry, in any private duty position as a registered nurse, a temporary nurse placement agency, a traveling nurse, or for an in-house nursing pool.

Respondent shall not work for a licensed home health agency as a visiting nurse unless the registered nursing supervision and other protections for home visits have been approved by the Board. Respondent shall not work in any other registered nursing occupation where home visits are required.

Respondent shall not work in any health care setting as a supervisor of registered nurses. The Board may additionally restrict Respondent from supervising licensed vocational nurses and/or unlicensed assistive personnel on a case-by-case basis.

Respondent shall not work as a faculty member in an approved school of nursing or as an instructor in a Board approved continuing education program.

Respondent shall work only on a regularly assigned, identified and predetermined worksite(s) and shall not work in a float capacity.

If Respondent is working or intends to work in excess of 40 hours per week, the Board may request documentation to determine whether there should be restrictions on the hours of work.

10. Complete a Nursing Course(s). Respondent, at her own expense, shall enroll and successfully complete a course(s) relevant to the practice of registered nursing no later than six months prior to the end of her probationary term.

Respondent shall obtain prior approval from the Board before enrolling in the course(s). Respondent shall submit to the Board the original transcripts or certificates of completion for the above required course(s). The Board shall return the original documents to Respondent after photocopying them for its records.

11. Violation of Probation. If Respondent violates the conditions of her probation, the Board after giving Respondent notice and an opportunity to be heard, may set aside the stay order and impose the stayed discipline (revocation/suspension) of Respondent's license.

If during the period of probation, an accusation or petition to revoke probation has been filed against Respondent's license or the Attorney General's Office has been requested to prepare an accusation or petition to revoke probation against Respondent's license, the probationary period shall automatically be extended and shall not expire until the accusation or petition has been acted upon by the Board.

12. License Surrender. During Respondent's term of probation, if she ceases practicing due to retirement, health reasons or is otherwise unable to satisfy the conditions of probation, Respondent may surrender her license to the Board. The Board reserves the right to evaluate Respondent's request and to exercise its discretion whether to grant the request, or to take any other action deemed appropriate and reasonable under the circumstances, without further hearing. Upon formal acceptance of the tendered license and wall certificate, Respondent will no longer be subject to the conditions of probation.

Surrender of Respondent's license shall be considered a disciplinary action and shall become a part of Respondent's license history with the Board. A registered nurse whose license has been surrendered may petition the Board for reinstatement no sooner than the following minimum periods from the effective date of the disciplinary decision:

- (1) Two years for reinstatement of a license that was surrendered for any reason other than a mental or physical illness; or
 - (2) One year for a license surrendered for a mental or physical illness.

Decision, Respondent, at her expense, shall have a licensed physician, nurse practitioner, or physician assistant, who is approved by the Board before the assessment is performed, submit an assessment of the Respondent's physical condition and capability to perform the duties of a registered nurse. Such an assessment shall be submitted in a format acceptable to the Board. If medically determined, a recommended treatment program will be instituted and followed by the Respondent with the physician, nurse practitioner, or physician assistant providing written reports to the Board on forms provided by the Board.

If Respondent is determined to be unable to practice safely as a registered nurse, the licensed physician, nurse practitioner, or physician assistant making this determination shall immediately notify the Board and Respondent by telephone, and the Board shall request that the Attorney General's office prepare an accusation or petition to revoke probation. Respondent shall immediately cease practice and shall not resume practice until notified by the Board. During this period of suspension, Respondent shall not engage in any practice for which a license issued by the Board is required until the Board has notified Respondent that a medical determination permits Respondent to resume practice. This period of suspension will not apply to the reduction of this probationary time period.

If Respondent fails to have the above assessment submitted to the Board within the 45-day requirement, Respondent shall immediately cease practice and shall not resume practice until notified by the Board. This period of suspension will not apply to the reduction of this probationary time period. The Board may waive or postpone this suspension only if significant, documented evidence of mitigation is provided. Such evidence must establish good faith efforts by Respondent to obtain the assessment, and a specific date for compliance must be provided. Only one such waiver or extension may be permitted.

14. Participate in Treatment/Rehabilitation Program for Chemical Dependence. Respondent, at her expense, shall successfully complete during the probationary period or shall have successfully completed prior to commencement of probation a Board-approved treatment/rehabilitation program of at least six months duration. As required, reports

shall be submitted by the program on forms provided by the Board. If Respondent has not completed a Board-approved treatment/rehabilitation program prior to commencement of probation, Respondent, within 45 days from the effective date of the decision, shall be enrolled in a program. If a program is not successfully completed within the first nine months of probation, the Board shall consider Respondent in violation of probation.

Based on Board recommendation, each week Respondent shall be required to attend at least one, but no more than five 12-step recovery meetings or equivalent (e.g., Narcotics Anonymous, Alcoholics Anonymous, etc.) and a nurse support group as approved and directed by the Board. If a nurse support group is not available, an additional 12-step meeting or equivalent shall be added. Respondent shall submit dated and signed documentation confirming such attendance to the Board during the entire period of probation. Respondent shall continue with the recovery plan recommended by the treatment/rehabilitation program or a licensed mental health examiner and/or other ongoing recovery groups.

shall completely abstain from the possession, injection or consumption by any route of all controlled substances and all psychotropic (mood altering) drugs, including alcohol, except when the same are ordered by a health care professional legally authorized to do so as part of documented medical treatment. Respondent shall have sent to the Board, in writing and within fourteen (14) days, by the prescribing health professional, a report identifying the medication, dosage, the date the medication was prescribed, the Respondent's prognosis, the date the medication will no longer be required, and the effect on the recovery plan, if appropriate.

Respondent shall identify for the Board a single physician, nurse practitioner or physician assistant who shall be aware of Respondent's history of substance abuse and will coordinate and monitor any prescriptions for Respondent for dangerous drugs, controlled substances or mood-altering drugs. The coordinating physician, nurse practitioner, or physician assistant shall report to the Board on a quarterly basis Respondent's compliance with this condition. If any substances considered addictive have been prescribed, the report shall identify a program for the time limited use of any such substances.

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The Board may require the single coordinating physician, nurse practitioner, or physician assistant to be a specialist in addictive medicine, or to consult with a specialist in addictive medicine.

participate in a random, biological fluid testing or a drug screening program which the Board approves. The length of time and frequency will be subject to approval by the Board. Respondent is responsible for keeping the Board informed of Respondent's current telephone number at all times. Respondent shall also ensure that messages may be left at the telephone number when she is not available and ensure that reports are submitted directly by the testing agency to the Board, as directed. Any confirmed positive finding shall be reported immediately to the Board by the program and Respondent shall be considered in violation of probation.

In addition, Respondent, at any time during the period of probation, shall fully cooperate with the Board or any of its representatives, and shall, when requested, submit to such tests and samples as the Board or its representatives may require for the detection of alcohol, narcotics, hypnotics, dangerous drugs, or other controlled substances.

If Respondent has a positive drug screen for any substance not legally authorized and not reported to the coordinating physician, nurse practitioner, or physician assistant, and the Board files a petition to revoke probation or an accusation, the Board may suspend Respondent from practice pending the final decision on the petition to revoke probation or the accusation. This period of suspension will not apply to the reduction of this probationary time period.

If Respondent fails to participate in a random, biological fluid testing or drug screening program within the specified time frame, Respondent shall immediately cease practice and shall not resume practice until notified by the Board. After taking into account documented evidence of mitigation, if the Board files a petition to revoke probation or an accusation, the Board may suspend Respondent from practice pending the final decision on the petition to revoke probation or the accusation. This period of suspension will not apply to the reduction of this probationary time period.

 17. **Mental Health Examination.** Respondent shall, within 45 days of the effective date of this Decision, have a mental health examination including psychological testing as appropriate to determine her capability to perform the duties of a registered nurse. The examination will be performed by a psychiatrist, psychologist or other licensed mental health practitioner approved by the Board. The examining mental health practitioner will submit a written report of that assessment and recommendations to the Board. All costs are the responsibility of Respondent. Recommendations for treatment, therapy or counseling made as a result of the mental health examination will be instituted and followed by Respondent.

If Respondent is determined to be unable to practice safely as a registered nurse, the licensed mental health care practitioner making this determination shall immediately notify the Board and Respondent by telephone, and the Board shall request that the Attorney General's office prepare an accusation or petition to revoke probation. Respondent shall immediately cease practice and may not resume practice until notified by the Board. During this period of suspension, Respondent shall not engage in any practice for which a license issued by the Board is required, until the Board has notified Respondent that a mental health determination permits Respondent to resume practice. This period of suspension will not apply to the reduction of this probationary time period.

If Respondent fails to have the above assessment submitted to the Board within the 45-day requirement, Respondent shall immediately cease practice and shall not resume practice until notified by the Board. This period of suspension will not apply to the reduction of this probationary time period. The Board may waive or postpone this suspension only if significant, documented evidence of mitigation is provided. Such evidence must establish good faith efforts by Respondent to obtain the assessment, and a specific date for compliance must be provided. Only one such waiver or extension may be permitted.

18. Therapy or Counseling Program. Respondent, at her expense, shall participate in an on-going counseling program until such time as the Board releases her from this requirement and only upon the recommendation of the counselor. Written progress reports from the counselor will be required at various intervals.

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ACCEPTANCE

I have carefully read the Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order. I understand the stipulation and the effect it will have on my Registered Nurse License. I enter into this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently, and agree to be bound by the Decision and Order of the Board of Registered Nursing.

DATED: 9/2/08

Kimi Renee Buono

Respondent

ENDORSEMENT

The foregoing Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order is hereby respectfully submitted for consideration by the Board of Registered Nursing of the Department of Consumer Affairs.

DATED: November 18, 7008

EDMUND G. BROWN JR., Attorney General of the State of California

JAMES M. LEDAKIS Supervising Deputy Attorney General

BLANCA I. LOPEZ/ Senior Legal Analyst

Attorneys for Complainant

Exhibit A

Statement of Issues No. 2009-30

	EDMUND G. BROWN JR., Attorney General		
:	of the State of California JAMES M. LEDAKIS, State Bar No. 132645 Supervising Deputy Attorney General BLANCA I. LOPEZ, Senior Legal Analyst 110 West "A" Street, Suite 1100 San Diego, CA 92101		
•			
:	P.O. Box 85266		
ć	San Diego, CA 92186-5266 Telephone: (619) 645-2610		
7			
8	Attorneys for Complainant		
9	BEFORE THE BOARD OF REGISTERED NURSING		
10	DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS STATE OF CALIFORNIA		
11	STATE OF CALIFORNIA		
12	In the Matter of the Statement of Issues Against:	Case No. 2009-30	
13	5025 Gavilan Way, Unit 54	STATEMENT OF ISSUES	
14	Oceanside, CA 92057	STATEMENT OF ISSUES	
15	Application No. 813507		
16	Respondent.		
17			
18	Complainant alleges:		
19	PARTIE:	_	
20	1. Ruth Ann Terry, M.P.H., R.N. (Complainant) brings this Statement of		
21	Issues solely in her official capacity as the Executive Officer of the Board of Registered Nursing,		
22	Department of Consumer Affairs.		
23	2. On or about March 31, 2008, the Board of Registered Nursing,		
24	Department of Consumer Affairs received an application for an Application for Licensure by		
25	Examination from Kimi Renee Buono (Respondent). On or about March 26, 2008, Kimi Renee		
26	Buono certified under penalty of perjury to the truthfulness of all statements, answers, and		
27	representations in the application. The Board denied the application on May 12, 2008.		
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JURISDICTION

3. This Statement of Issues is brought before the Board of Registered Nursing (Board), Department of Consumer Affairs, under the authority of the following laws.
All section references are to the Business and Professions Code unless otherwise indicated.

STATUTORY PROVISIONS

- 4. Section 2736 of the Business and Professions Code (Code) provides, in pertinent part, that the Board of Registered Nursing (Board) may deny a license when it finds that the applicant has committed any acts constituting grounds for denial of licensure under section 480 of that Code.
 - 5. Section 480 of the Code states:
- "(a) A board may deny a license regulated by this code on the grounds that the applicant has one of the following:
- "(1) Been convicted of a crime. A conviction within the meaning of this section means a plea or verdict of guilty or a conviction following a plea of nolo contendere. Any action which a board is permitted to take following the establishment of a conviction may be taken when the time for appeal has elapsed, or the judgment of conviction has been affirmed on appeal, or when an order granting probation is made suspending the imposition of sentence, irrespective of a subsequent order under the provisions of Section 1203.4 of the Penal Code.

"....

"(3) Done any act which if done by a licentiate of the business or profession in question, would be grounds for suspension or revocation of license.

"The board may deny a license pursuant to this subdivision only if the crime or act is substantially related to the qualifications, functions or duties of the business or profession for which application is made.

"...,"

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or when an order granting probation is made suspending the imposition of sentence, irrespective 1 of a subsequent order under the provisions of Section 1203.4 of the Penal Code. 2 3 ". . *.* . "(3) Done any act which if done by a licentiate of the business or profession in 4 question, would be grounds for suspension or revocation of license. 5 "The board may deny a license pursuant to this subdivision only if the crime or act 6 is substantially related to the qualifications, functions or duties of the business or profession for 7 8 which application is made." 9 CAUSE FOR DENIAL OF APPLICATION 10 (Conviction of a Crime) (June 2006 - Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol and/or Drugs) 11 12 10. Respondent's application is subject to denial under Code sections 2761/480 in that on or about June 1, 2006, in a criminal proceeding entitled People v. Kimi 13 Renee Buono in San Diego County, North County Division, Case Number CN211908, 14 Respondent was convicted on her plea of guilty of violating Vehicle Code section 23152(b) 15 (Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol), a misdemeanor. The circumstances are as follows: 16 On or about April 20, 2006, Respondent was arrested for driving under the 17 a. influence of alcohol. It was determined that Respondent had a blood alcohol level of .26%. 18 19 As a result of the above conviction, Respondent was placed on five years b. summary probation, ordered to serve 180 days in county jail, with sentence suspended, and was 20 ordered to pay \$1,800 in fines, to perform 15 days of volunteer work, and complete a 9-month 21 22 First Conviction Program. 23 111 24 111 25 111 26 111 27 111 28 111

PRAYER

WHEREFORE, Complainant requests that a hearing be held on the matters herein alleged, and that following the hearing, the Board of Registered Nursing issue a decision:

- Denying the application for licensure by examination for a registered nurse 1. license of Kimi Renee Buono;
 - Taking such other and further action as deemed necessary and proper.

DATED: [[1210]

RUTH ANN TERRY, M.P.H., R.N. Executive Officer

Board of Registered Nursing Department of Consumer Affairs

State of California Complainant